HAL: from *2001* A Space *Odyssey to the French national open access platform*

After the Declaration of the Budapest Open Access Initiative in 2001 and the October 22nd 2003 Berlin Declaration on "open access publishing", open archives have developed on a worldwide scale. France created the HAL platform in this context. HAL (Hyper Article on Line) was finalised by CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research) and other French research institutes and forms the basis of the national open archives. This archive project resulted from an agreement between the different French public research organisations signed during the summer 2006. This agreement stipulated a coordinated approach to open filing of scientific publications at a national level and was signed by the Universities and French research institutions such as CNRS, INSERM (French National Institute of Medical Research), Institut Pasteur etc... While the French approach to open archives has been centralised, in many other countries a large number of smaller institutional open archives have been created (for example, archives specific to a single university or even a single department of a research institute, or, on a somewhat broader scale, related to a scientific discipline). Future plans foresee the integration of the French national HAL platform into the European DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research) network and will thereby greatly increase the visibility of French research. DRIVER, a project carried out by a consortium of ten European partners at the European level of Open Access, was selected for this purpose by the European Commission. The DRIVER database will collect all European research results, bringing together existing national archives in a Europe-wide data and knowledge-base infrastructure. I will present you the specificities of the French national open access initiative and address questions such as: What was the agreement between the large French research institutes? Which technology forms the basis of HAL? Which documents are accessible on this platform? Finally I will discuss how the French system might integrate into the European one.